

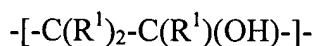
REMARKS

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tominaga et al.

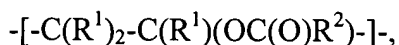
Claims 8, 12-16, and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tominaga et al. U.S. Patent 4,134,866. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

The Tominaga document describes a cationic electrophoretic coating composition containing a reaction product of epoxy resin-amine adduct, partially blocked polyisocyanate and (reacted or mixed with) a polyamide. According to the disclosure in column 7, the composition may also include a neutral or cationic water-soluble resin such as polyvinyl alcohol.

The present claims, however, are to such baths containing a dissolved polyvinyl alcohol copolymer having the vinyl alcohol monomer unit of structure (I)



and monomer units of at least one of



(meth)acrylic acid ester,

a monomer carrying at least one hydroxyl group,

a monomer containing at least one acid group,

a vinyl ester of a five to eighteen carbon alpha-branched monocarboxylic acid,

a cyclic olefin,

an acyclic olefin,

(meth)acrylamide,

a monomer containing an epoxide group,

a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon,

a nitrile,

a vinyl monomer,

an allyl monomer

and/or monomer units of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

The Tominaga patent does not suggest polyvinyl alcohol copolymers — that is, polymers containing monomeric units other than the vinyl alcohol unit. The claimed copolymers are not (and have not been shown by the Examiner to be) closely related homologs, analogs, or isomers; thus the argument advanced in favor of a prima facie case of obviousness must fail.

Accordingly Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hoefer et al.

Claims 8, 12-16, and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hoefer et al. U.S. Patent 6,146,512. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

The Hoefer document discloses that a water-based electrophoretic coating bath may include polyvinyl alcohol. As pointed out with regard to the Tominaga patent, the electrodeposition bath of the present claims contains a dissolved polyvinyl alcohol copolymer having not only the vinyl alcohol monomer unit and at least one of the further monomer units listed in the claims.

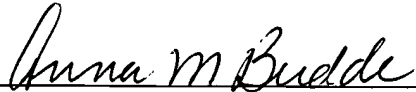
The Hoefer patent does not suggest copolymers containing monomeric units other than the vinyl alcohol unit. Nor are copolymers closely related homologs, analogs, or isomers; thus the argument advanced in favor of a prima facie case of obviousness must fail.

Accordingly Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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